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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXHAUST DATES EXTENDED FOR AREA CODES 402 AND 308**

LINCOLN – The forecasted exhaust dates for Nebraska's two telephone area codes has been extended from their previous dates the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) was informed at its November 6 meeting.

In its presentation to the Commission, the Telecommunications Department shared a report it received from the Federal Communications Commission and the North American Numbering Plan administrator that the 402 area code gained one fourth of a year and the 308 area code's life was extended one full year as a result of an analysis of number usage throughout the respective area codes.

In 1999 the NPSC was first informed that area code 402 was in danger of exhausting in the fourth quarter of 2000. Since that time various pro-active measures have been implemented by the Commission to extend the life of area code 402. The 402 area code is now forecasted to exhaust during the fourth quarter of 2009 compared to the third quarter in the previous report. That represents an extension of the 402 Area Code forecasted exhaust date of two and one half years since mandatory pooling was implemented in the area code in February of 2006 and nine years since the Commission was first informed that area code 402 was in danger of exhaust.

The Telecommunications Department said that 13 per cent of the numbers assigned in the 402 area code are pooled numbers which now are allocated in blocks of 1,000 compared to the former assignment of numbers in blocks of 10,000. Another 13 per cent are the result of number portability, which permits consumers to retain a telephone number while switching carriers within a rate center. Number pooling and portability have been key components of the Nebraska Commission's efforts to extend the life of the 402 area code.

The 308 area code's exhaust forecast was extended from the third quarter of 2029 to the third quarter of 2030.

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